



Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*. Kilbaha, Co. Clare, 14 October 2008.
Richard H. Coombes

Irish Rare Bird Report 2008



Introduction

In a year that is widely regarded as one of the better years for vagrants it is perhaps surprising that only one species was added to the Irish list, Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (Galway) in October.

However, this report also contains details of three additions to the Northern Irish list, a Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (Londonderry) in September, a Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (Down) in October and a Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (Londonderry) in December. Two species occurred for only the second time: Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* in August (Cork) and Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* in October (Clare). The third White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* was found in October (Cork) and the third and fourth records of Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* in August (Cork). Three other species, two of them waders, were also recorded for the fourth time, Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* in August (Cork), Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* in September (Galway) and Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* in October (Cork). Two thrushes, one from the east, the other from the west occurred for the fifth time: a White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* in September (Galway) and a Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* in October (Cork).

The year will be particularly remembered for both the quality and quantity of passerine vagrants from the Nearctic. Uniquely, there were two different influxes. The first of these, in late August was unusually early but the second, in October, was more in keeping with the norm. This report contains details of eleven individuals of eight species, a total which equals the number of species recorded in 1985, a legendary autumn. Eleven individuals is just one short of the record of twelve, albeit mostly Red-eyed Vireos *Vireo olivaceus*, during 1995. In addition, the Committee is yet to receive details of a further two individuals, of two additional species.

The major ornithological event of the early months of 2008 was the continued influx of Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*. Small groups of this species were found throughout the southwest, subsequently spreading eastwards. With the exception of a record number of Great White Egret *Ardea alba*, numbers of rare herons were low with just single examples of Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* and Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* in spring. Other spring migrants from continental Europe were not so scarce - there were record numbers of Hobby *Falco subbuteo*, Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* and Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* and near record numbers of Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* and Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*. Additionally, some species occurred that are more normally associated with autumn in Ireland such as Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*, Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*, Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* and Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* as well as the only Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* for the year.

Once again, Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* bred in Co. Down and occurred in four other east coast counties, with juveniles in Dublin and Wicklow also providing strong indications that successful breeding had occurred. Seawatching brought a near record showing of Fea's/Zino's Petrels *Pterodroma feae/madeira* and significant numbers of Long-tailed Skuas *Stercorarius longicaudus* but a relatively poor total of Wilson's Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus*.

The autumn had a distinctly Nearctic flavour with a record flock of Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* on Inishmore (Galway) and most of the regularly occurring American waders occurring in good numbers. In an autumn with nine vagrant species of Nearctic wader recorded, there was a record number of Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, near record numbers of American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* and Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* and good numbers of Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. In contrast, apart from record numbers of Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* and near record numbers of Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*, eastern and southern vagrants were generally scarce.

Since January 2005, the backbone of the IRBC's system for recording the occurrences of rare birds in the Republic of Ireland has been the Provisional List, published online at www.irbc.ie/provisional/provisional.php and updated on a monthly basis. Most of the data in this report was taken directly from the 2008 Provisional List. The IRBC expresses its sincere gratitude to all those who provided information during 2008, either directly or indirectly. Our thanks also go to Derek Charles of the Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association for supplying all the Northern Ireland records contained within this Report.

K.Fahy

on behalf of the Irish Rare Birds Committee.

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Rarity Description forms may be downloaded from the IRBC website: www.irbc.ie/records/records.php

Rarities:

The full, periodically reviewed, list of species and races requiring written descriptions can be found at www.irbc.ie/records/desclist.php.

For a full explanation of the background and purpose of the list see *Irish Birds* 7: 413–418 or online at www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce1.php

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2008 Systematic List

The species order and scientific nomenclature largely follows The British List (7th Edition) (Dudley *et al.* 2006) incorporating subsequent recommendations of the Taxonomic Sub-committee of the British Ornithologists Union (Sangster *et al.* 2007, Knox *et al.* 2008, Sangster *et al.* 2009) and the Taxonomic Advisory Committee of the AERC (Crochet *et al.* 2010).

Sangster *et al.* 2009 has significantly affected the sequence of the passerine species on the Irish List which is now '*determined on the principle that, for each branching point in the best-supported phylogeny, the less-speciose group should be listed first*'. Consequently, the passerine species are in an unfamiliar new sequence.

The two numbers in parentheses after rarer species refer respectively to (a) the total number of birds up to, but not including, the current year; totals calculated for the period beginning 1st January 1950 are marked with an asterisk; (b) the total for the current year.

As can be seen, some species lack such totals and it is the intention of the Committee to address this incrementally in forthcoming reports.

It is also the intention to forensically examine the published records which make up these totals to ensure that the statistics accurately reflect the record. Some corrections are contained within this report. In order to preserve the flow of the report however, the details of these corrections are gathered together in Appendix 5 and this is noted within the species comments as appropriate.

In addition to the species totals, in a situation where more than one new individual is recorded in a county, the total number of new individuals in that county is included immediately following the county name.



Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans* with Pale-bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla brota*.
North Slob, Co. Wexford, 12 November 2008 (Dave Daly).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (101; 2)

Mayo Adult white phase, Termoncarragh and area, The Mullet, 25 September to 16 March 2009, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Wexford Adult white phase, North Slob, 2 November to 31 March 2009, photographed (A.Walsh *et al.*).

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

Down One, Dundrum Inner Bay North, 20 January (D.Allen, C.Mellon); One, Millisle, 6 to 23 February (D.Charles, G.Gordon *et al.*), also seen at various locations in Belfast Lough, 3 April to 2 May (D.Charles, C.Moore), photograph *Birdwatch* 190: 69; One, Floodgates, Strangford Lough, 5 October (D. Charles).

Mayo Adult, The Mullet, 11 January to 18 February (D.Suddaby), presumed returning individual; Adult, Killala Bay, 23 November, photographed (D.Breen); Adult, The Mullet, 18 December to 5 March 2009, presumed returning individual (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

Sligo Adult, Raghly Point, 16 November, (M.Bell, M.Enright, M.Keane *et al.*), later seen at Culleenamore Strand, Ballysadare, 22 November (D.Cotton, J.Dunleavy).

Waterford Adult, Dungarvan from mid-October 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 585), remained until 19 April, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*); Adult, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan 4 October to 28 February 2009, photographed (M.Cowming, C.Flynn, P.M.Walsh), presumed returning individual.

Wexford Adult, North Slob from 8 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 585), remained until 3 March; Adult, North Slob, 12 November to 29 March 2009, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*), presumed returning individual; Additional adult, North Slob, 16 December, photographed (P.Archer); Adult, Tacumshin, 28 December, photographed (D.Daly), presumed to be one of the birds from the North Slob.

American Wigeon *Anas americana* (117; 3)

Cork Male, Dooniskey, The Gearagh, 13 October to 23 November (J.Diggin *et al.*).

Galway Male, Rahasane Turlough, 22 to 24 March (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Offaly Male, Shannon Harbour, 26 to 28 November (P.Brennan *et al.*).

Still keeping to its average of three new individuals per year in the current decade (*Irish Birds* 8: 585) but, on this occasion, including the first record for Offaly.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes* (16; 0)

Donegal Male, near Milford, 22 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 585) remained to 5 January, photographed; Male, Blanket Nook, 29 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 585) remained to 31 May, photographed.

Kerry Adult male, Ventry, 25 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 585) remained to 17 February, photographed.

While only sixteen individuals have been recorded, many of them have returned to spend multiple winters in Ireland. The last year without any individual being seen was 1992.

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors* (65; 4)

Dublin Female, North Bull Island from 21 October 2007, photographed (*Irish Birds* 8: 585) remained until 20 January.

Galway Female/Immature, Inishmore, 10 October (A.Lees, R.Moores).

Leitrim Male, Coolfinnan Lake, Mohill, 12 to 19 January, photographed (J.K.Lovatt *et al.*).

Londonderry Male, Lough Beg NNR, 13 May (M.Tickner).

Tipperary Male, Pat Reddan's Lake, 25 April, photographed (T.Chadwick, F.O'Duffy *et al.*).

The first record for Leitrim leaves only Sligo and Meath of counties with a coastline lacking a record. Perhaps surprisingly, the record listed for Galway is only the second record for that county, the first having been shot in 1962 (*IBR* 10: 8).

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (62; 1)

Fermanagh Male, Lough Barry, 12 January to 17 March (B.Robson, M.Stinson *et al.*), returning individual.

Wexford Female, North Slob, 29 November (T.Kilbane).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* (214; 50)

Cavan Male, Parisee Lake, 14 April (J.Donaldson).

Clare Male, Lough Gash, 24 November to 10 January 2009, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy).

Cork Three: Male, Dooniskey and The Gearagh, 1 November to 14 March 2009, photographed (J.Diggin *et al.*); Female, north-western corner of The Gearagh, 8 November to 15 March 2009, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*); Female, south-eastern corner of The Gearagh, 8 December to 27 January 2009, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*).

Donegal Eight: Male, Lough Nacally, Glenveagh National Park, 7 February to 14 March, photographed (D.Breen); Male, Killea Reservoir 26 March (D.Brennan); Male, Blanket Nook, 1 March to 7 June, photographed (M.Casey *et al.*); Male, Lough Fern, 1 November to 11 February 2009, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*); Female, Dunfanaghy New Lough, 13 January to 2 February (D.Breen) and presumed same, with Male, Dunfanaghy New Lough, 6 to 8 March (D.Breen); Two females, Inch Island Lough, 19 January (D.Breen); Male, Inch Island Lough, 14 September to 4 November (D.Charles *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Fermanagh Male, Cornabass Lough, from 7 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 586) remained until 1 January; Male, Cornabass Lough, 27 December (D.Charles), presumed returning individual; Female, Racecourse Lough, from 24 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 586) remained to 29 March.

Galway Twenty: Eleven eclipse/first-winter males and four female/immature, Lough Phort an Chorrúch, Inishmore, 8 to 28 October, photographed (J.Gilroy *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 401; Male, Angliham, Lough Corrib, 2 November, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*); Female, Angliham, Lough Corrib, 25 November to 3 January 2009 (D.Breen); Three males, Lough Acogga, 20 December (C.Peppiatt).

Kerry Female/Immature, Lough Gill, 27 October (H.Hussey, B.Lynch).

Limerick Male, Lough Gur, 11 January (G.Hunt).

Louth First-winter male, Keenan's Cross Pond, 21 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 586), remained to 12 January, photographed; First-winter male, Mell Quarry, 19 January to 6 March (P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed same as above, photograph *Birdwatch* 190: 68.

Mayo Four: Carrowmore Lake: Adult male, 11 January to 12 March (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning individual; Adult male, 10 October to 13 April 2009, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), presumed returning individual; Juvenile, 10 to 27 October (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Doogan Lough, Newport, three: Male, female and first-winter female, 1 to 22 March (R.Bonser, G.Howard, J.Hunter, B.Wright *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 94.

Sligo Five: Female, Lough Arrow, 23 January to 4 March, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*); male, Muck Island, Lough Arrow, 24 January to 4 March, photographed (S.Feeney *et al.*), also seen at Lough Bo, 19 February to 16 March, photographed (S.Feeney); male, Ballinafad, Lough Arrow, 27 January (N.Hatch, S.McAvoy); male and female, Lough Arrow, 2 April, photographed (S.Feeney).

Tipperary Male, Lough Eorna, 25 to 26 April (F.O'Duffy *et al.*) also seen at Pat Reddan's Lake, 29 April (P.Brennan).

Westmeath Three: Male and female, Lough Ennell, 16 February to 1 March, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); first-winter female, Lough Ennell, 30 November (P.Kelly).

Wicklow Two: Juvenile, Kilcoole, 11 October (N.T.Keogh); Immature male, 5 November (B.Haslam).

The explosion of records continues with a record total of presumed new birds, eclipsing the previous record of 31 in 2006, with the highlight being the record count of fifteen together on Inishmore, Galway in October. The years between 2006 and 2008 now account for over 40% of the total. This species has got so numerous recently that one wonders at the possibility of breeding on this side of the Atlantic Ocean – perhaps searching suitable lakes in the West and Midlands might pay dividends?

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* (30; 0)

Down Male, Corbet Lough from 24 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 586) remained until 7 January and relocated to Craigavon North Lake from 4 February to 4 March (D.Knight, R.Price), photograph *British Birds* 101: 108.



Male, female and first-winter female **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*.
Doogan Lough, Newport, Co. Mayo, 15 March 2008 (Pat Lonergan).



Male **King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis*.
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, 25 May 2008 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Immature Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*.
White Strand, Doonbeg, Co. Clare, 14 November 2008 (Sean Geraty).

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* (19; 2)

Down Female, Clea Lakes from 25 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 586) remained until 15 March and returned from 15 November to 31 December (D.Charles, A.Croly *et al.*); First-winter male, Quoile Pondage NNR, 29 October to 7 December (K.Bennett, D.Charles, I.Graham).
Fermanagh First-winter male, Racecourse Lough, 26 December into 2009 (W.Farrelly *et al.*).

Once observers 'got their eye in' thanks to long staying birds, this species has proved to be occurring quite regularly, averaging one new bird per year since the first in 1988. Even the trickier non adult males are now being found with some regularity and nine of the twenty-one individuals found to date have first been identified in female or first-winter male plumage. See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis* (14; 2)

Mayo First-winter male, Frenchport Pier, The Mullet, 10 to 13 December (D.Suddaby *et al.*).
Wexford First-summer male, Tacumshin and Lady's Island Lake, 25 May to 10 August, photographed (P.Lonergan *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 179, 268.

The Mayo record fits neatly with the established geographical pattern - thirteen of the sixteen records have occurred in the northern half of the island. However, it is the first for that county since a female and first-winter male were recorded in March 1985. The Wexford record is the second record for the south coast, the only other record being one in Baltimore, Cork in January 1959. Photographs of this individual prove that it is the same bird that wintered in Britain at Appledore and Skern Northam, Torridge Estuary, Devon, having last been seen there 3rd of May 2008 (Hudson *et al.* 2009).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* (151; 11)

Clare Two immature, White Strand, Doonbeg, 8 to 26 November, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Galway One: First-winter female, Silver Strand, Galway Bay from 31 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 587) remained until 22 February, photographed, and what was presumed to be the same bird that was at Nimmo's Pier, 27 February to 3 May, photographed (P.Troake *et al.*); Adult female, Nimmo's Pier, 27 February to 3 May, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*); Adult female, Silver Strand and Nimmo's Pier, 22 December to 8 February 2009, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Kerry Five: Adult male, Ballinskelligs Bay, 3 January (J.A.Coveney) is presumed to be the same bird as seen at the same location on 30 September 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 587); Waterville: Two males, 22 April (E.Carty); male, 27 October to 29 December (M.O'Clery *et al.*), presumed returning individual; Brandon Bay: Male, 15 October (M.O'Clery); presumed same adult male, accompanied by an adult female and immature, 3 November to 31 January 2009 (M.O'Clery *et al.*).

Sligo Three: Adult male and female, Strandhill, 13 to 16 January (P.Keogh *et al.*); Male, Raghly Point, 3 March (M.Hoit *et al.*).

2006 Kerry Only two of the three individuals at Fermoy, Brandon Bay from 17 December 2006 (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) remained into 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 587), one of the female/immature not being recorded in 2007.

With twenty one presumed new individuals between 2006 and 2007, this species sees something of a return to the halcyon days between 1983 and 1988 when a minimum of eleven and up to nineteen new birds were found annually. Sharp eyed readers of the *Irish Rare Bird Report 2007* (*Irish Birds* 8: 583-610) will have noticed that page 587 is numbered as 588. Any reference in this report to *Irish Birds* 8: 587 refers to the first instance of page 588.

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica* (1; 0)

Down Male, Quoile Pondage NNR from 24 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 587) remained until 22 April, photographs *Birding World* 21: 95, *Wings* 49: 25, *British Birds* 101: 272.

This would appear to be this bird's final appearance after three successive winters in this area.

Fea's/Zino's Petrel

Pterodroma feae/madeira (54; 9)

Clare Bridges of Ross, two: one, 13 August (B.Porter); one, 19 August (C.D.R.Heard).

Cork Four: Galley Head, three: one, 15 August (C.Barton, P.Crockett); one, 26 August, photographed (D.G.McAdams); one, 10 September (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan); one, Dunowen Head, 15 August (D.G.McAdams).

Galway One, about six miles north-west of Slyne Head, 28 July (J.Brittain *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 311.

Mayo One, Annagh Head, 24 August (A.Curry *et al.*).

Wexford One, Carnsore Point, 14 September (E.Dempsey *et al.*), later seen passing Hook Head, 14 September (K.Grace).

This series, which is only one short of the record total of 2007, includes the first record for Galway and the first ever photograph of a *Pterodroma* in Irish waters. Since 1989, individuals of this species complex have been recorded every year, with the exception of 2001. See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Macaronesian Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* (19; 1)

Clare One, Bridges of Ross, 24 August (H.Cook, M.Duckham, J.Taylor *et al.*).

The last week of August has accounted for over half of the records of this species and only one of the sixteen birds recorded since 1992 has not occurred during this month, that having occurred in June 2002. Since the publication of the review of historical records in 1999 (IRBC 1999) this species has averaged just above one per year. Unfortunately, views of this species tend to be brief and often in poor weather conditions, if close on occasions and observers are reminded that critical evaluation of size, structure and plumage details is required for a claim to be acceptable.



Fea's/Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae/madeira* with Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.
Approximately 6m NW of Slyne Head, Co. Galway, 28 July 2008 (John Brittain).



Wilson's Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus*.
At sea west of Bolus Head, Co. Kerry, 21 September 2008 (Richard H. Coombes below & Michael O'Keeffe above).

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* (105; 5)

At Sea Twelve between 51°28.87' N 12°05.34' W (ca. 125 km WSW of Bolus Head) and 51°48.26' N 12°03.86' W (ca. 115 km WSW of Slea Head); single birds at 51°47.08' N 11°32.42' W (ca. 82 km W of Bolus Head) and 51°50.48' N 11°07.14' W (ca. 48 km W of Puffin Island), 21 September, photographed (R.H.Coombes, D.G.McAdams, K.Mullarney, M.O'Keefe *et al.*); Three at 51° 57.15' N 11° 21.787' W (ca. 64 km WSW of Slea Head); twelve at 51° 50' N 11° 55' W (104 km WSW of Slea Head), 26 September, photographed (D.Brown *et al.*).

Clare Bridges of Ross, two: one, 15 August (M.Carmody, N.Davidson); one 16 August (J.N.Murphy).

Cork One, Old Head of Kinsale, 18 August (P.Wolstenholme).

Galway Two, off Inishbofin, 24 August (A.McGeehan, M.Robb, P.Wolf *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 313, *Wings* 51: 32, *British Birds* 101: 582.

Note that the 'at sea' records are excluded from the totals. This is the lowest annual total for records seen fromland since 2001, when only three were observed (*Irish Birds* 7: 221). That times have changed however is illustrated by the comment from the 1995 Irish Bird Report that the occurrence of three 'land-based records ranks as one of the year's biggest surprises' (*Irish Birds* 5: 450). Since then eighty-nine have been seen from land and this species is now expected in the appropriate weather conditions, particularly at the Bridges of Ross, Clare, where there have been records every year for the ten consecutive years from 1999 to 2008. The Galway record is the first for that county and the photograph in *Birding World* clearly shows the rarely seen yellow webs.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Galway One, Kilronan, Inishmore, 5 to 30 April, taken into care and released at Lough Corrib on the latter date, photographed (A.Ó'Dónaill, P.Reaney *et al.*).

Kerry One, Waterville, 19 April (F.King per E.Carty).

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (55; 1)

Waterford Male, Brownstown Head, 26 April (P.M.Walsh *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 50: 26.

This species is far from annual and this record is only the third of the current decade. One-quarter of the dated records have occurred in the last three weeks of April.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (71; 1)

Cork Adult, Cuskinny Marsh, 12 April (M.Carmody).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* (41; 130)

Clare Zero: One, Kilshanny, 16 January (H.Kevlehan), presumed to be the same individual that had been seen at Clahane in December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588).

Cork Seventy-nine: Of the two near Redbarn Strand, Youghal from 3 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588), one remained to 13 January, photographed; One, near Mizen Head from 23 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 5 January; Nine, Clogheen, Clonakilty, from 27 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained until 5 May, peaking at 11 birds, photographed; One, Cape Clear Island, from about 25 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 22 January; One, Cuskinny Marsh, Great Island from 30 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 2 January, photographed; Of the group of five at Bohonagh, from 30 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) four remained until 4 January, photographed; Four, considered different to the group nearby at Bohonagh, Rathbarry, near Rosscarbery, 1 to 4 January, photographed (D.G.McAdams, A.Wueppen); Up to Five, Keffe's Wood, Great Island, 2 January to 24 February (B.Lynch *et al.*); Eight, Rossmore, 7 to 10 January, photographed (S.Callaghan, P.Whooley); Two, Rostellan, 11 January (S.Bourke); Three, Minane Bridge, 19 January to 16 March (T.Nagle *et al.*); Twelve, Coolmore House, Carrigaline, 22 January (P.Connaughton); Two, Muckridge Demesne, Youghal, 27 January (C.Cullen), presumed to involve the two birds from Redbarn Strand; One, Curraheen, Cork Ring Road, 28 January to 13 February (S.Enright *et al.*) and presumed same, The Lough, Cork City, 11 February to 8 April (R.Mundy); One, Inishannon, 29 January (S.Cronin); Two, Ballincollig, 3 February, photographed (R.T.Mills); Two, Fanisk Bridge, Youghal, 15 February, photographed (C.Cullen), presumed to involve the two birds originally at Redbarn Strand; Up to five, Water Tower, Cobh, 18 to 24 February (H.Hussey, D.O'Sullivan, G.Walsh *et al.*); Four, Timoleague, 25 February, photographed (P.Wolstenholme *et al.*); Up to six, near Youghal by-pass, 27 to 29



Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*.

Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford, 26 April 2008
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).

March (P.Moore), also seen in Waterford (see below); Three, near Lough Beg, 30 March (S.Ronayne *et al.*); Up to twelve, East of Rossleague, Great Island, 6 to 11 April, photographed (C.Cronin, R.McLaughlin); Up to thirteen, Youghal, 12 to 17 April (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan, P.M.Walsh), presumed to include the group of six near Youghal by-pass end of March; One, Long Strand and Kilkerran Lake, 2 June (C.Barton); Up to six, Inchydoney and Clogheen, 19 October to 27 April 2009, photographed (C.Foley, O.Foley, D.G.McAdams, M.Reimann *et al.*), presumed returning birds; One, Reendonegan Lake, 22 October (M.Cobley); One, Cuskinny Marsh, Great Island, 6 December to 28 April 2009, photographed (R.McLaughlin *et al.*), presumed returning bird.

Donegal One, Inch Island Lough, 6 January (D.Breen).

Galway Zero: Three of the group of four at Cartron, near Corrandulla from 24 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained until 8 February 2008, photographed.

Kerry Five: One, Ballydavid, 24 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 15 February, photographed; One, Ballintaggart, near Trabeg, late December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 20 February, photographed; One, Ballygambon, Castlemaine, 11 January to mid-April (per F.King); Two, Ardfert, 13 January to 5 February, (M.O'Keefe *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 49: 26 and one, presumed one of these, Lawlor's Cross and Akeragh Lough, 4 to 10 February (E.Carty); One, Spunkane, near Waterville, 2 to 7 February, photographed (E.Carty), same, Waterville, 6 to 24 April, photographed (O'Sullivan family *et al.*); One, Kilmoyle, 21 February (per E.Carty).

Kilkenny One, Tibberaghny, near Piltown, 16 November (P.M.Walsh).

Limerick Two, Loughill, Foynes, 13 to 31 January, photographed (S.Hunt *et al.*); One, Mounttrenchard, Foynes, 9 March, photographed (G.Enright), presumed to be one of the two birds seen in January.

Waterford Thirty-one: One, Garrarus from 25 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 2 January; Two, near Killongford, Dungarvan from 29 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 17 January, photographed, with two at Gortnadiha Lower, Dungarvan, 17 to 18 February (A.Allen, C.Flynn *et al.*) presumed to be the same birds; One, Six Cross Roads, Carriganard, 4 January (P.Archer); Up to Eleven, Drumlohan Cross and Stradbally, 27 January to 5 February, photographed (P.Archer *et al.*); Two, Ballysaggart More, between Lismore and Ballyduff, 30 January (P.Smiddy); Two, Bawngarrane, near Ardmore, 9 to 10 February, photographed (J.J.Cahill, M.Cowming, C.Flynn, J.Power, B.Sheridan *et al.*), with further sightings five kilometres and seven kilometres east of Youghal on N25, 10 February, presumed to relate to these birds (H.Hussey, S.Cronin); Eight, Ballycrompane/Crashmore, 16 February to 1 April, photographed (J.J.Cahill, J.Power, B.Sheridan *et al.*); Five, Tourig Estuary, then flew into Cork, 12 April (P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan, P.M.Walsh), presumed to be part of the group near Youghal at the end of March; Up to six, Clohernagh, Tramore, 27 to 28 April (Jm.Power), of which two, near Waterford Airport, 2 May, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*); Up to four, Drumlohan, near Stradbally, 29 December to 14 February 2009, photographed (D.Clarke *et al.*), presumed returning; One, Annewstown, 31 December to 3 January 2009, photographed (J.Power *et al.*).



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.
Lough Corrib, Co. Galway, 30 April 2008 (Tom Cuffe, www.iol.ie/~birdsgalway).



Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*.
Coolkeeran, Killinick, Co. Wexford, 9 March 2008 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*.
Letterfrack, Co. Galway, 2 October 2008 (John Coveney, www.flickr.com/photos/johncoveneyphotos/).



Juvenile **Little Blue Heron** *Egretta caerulea*.
Letterfrack, Co. Galway, 5 October 2008 (Victor Caschera).

Wexford Eleven: One, Ballyhoge, 20 January to 15 February, photographed (T.Murray, S.Stapleton *et al.*); Seven, Coolkeeran, Killinick, 6 to 9 March, photographed (K.Fahy, G.Harhen, T.Murray *et al.*), later seen at Johnstown Castle, 23 April to 5 May (T.Murray *et al.*) and South Slob, 26 April (F.Tennant); One, Yoletown, Tacumshin, 4 May (K.Fahy, G.Harhen); Two, Tacumshin, 10 May (M.Cowming, M.O'Keeffe).

This was a phenomenal influx which would probably benefit from a more in-depth analysis than is possible here. The scale of this influx is almost without precedent in recorded Irish ornithological history and perhaps the only similar event amongst vagrants was the 1888 invasion of Pallas' Sandgrouse *Syrhaptes paradoxus* which likewise involved over one hundred individuals. Prior to early November 2007, only 10 individuals of this species had been recorded, giving a total figure for the influx of 161 birds. While there may be some duplication within the figures, other records remain as anonymous records (see Appendix 4) so these figures may balance each other out. The influx in Ireland occurred simultaneously with one in Britain involving approximately 250 individuals (Hudson *et al.* 2008, Hudson *et al.* 2009) and similarly starting in the south-west, with increasing numbers of easterly records as the winter progressed. The birds recorded in the winter of 2008/2009 are largely presumed to be returning birds notwithstanding that towards the end of 2008 a small number of individuals in Britain were perceived to be evidence of a second influx there. This species is well known for its rapid range expansions in the twentieth century, involving, amongst others, the colonisation of a large swathe of the New World following its arrival in Brazil in the 1930's and perhaps this influx is the pre-cursor to this species emulating Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* by becoming part of the Irish breeding avifauna?

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea* (0; 1)

Galway Juvenile, Barnaderg Bay, Letterfrack, 24 September to 22 October (D.Breen, A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 436-438, 440, 551, *Wings* 52: 29, *British Birds* 101: 636.

This is the first record for Europe and only the fourth for the Western Palearctic, following three on the Azores in 1964, 1997 and 1998. It was almost 'the one that got away' but for the fortunate juxtaposition of the first named observer on the 4th of October with a copy of The North American Bird Guide (Sibley 2000). Even then, the bird would not have been clinched but for the fact that the observers had taken far more than a cursory glance, the diagnostic dusky tips to the outer primaries being noted, among many other supporting features. Fortunately the bird was still present and remained for more than a further two weeks allowing many to travel to see this instructive bird. A full account of this extraordinary occurrence was published in *Birding World* (Breen 2008).

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* (24; 6)

Cork Two: One, between Ballinspittle and Garretstown, 12 to 17 May, photographed (T.O'Keeffe *et al.*); One, Fota, 28 July (S.Ronayne); presumed same, Slatty's Bridge, Fota, Great Island, 19 October (C.Cronin).

Dublin One, Swords Estuary, 11 June (E.Dempsey).

Galway One, Baranny, Lough Corrib, 17 August (A.Ó'Dónaill); presumed same, Curraghline, Lough Corrib, 14 October to 25 December (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*).

Londonderry One, Lough Beg from 20 September 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained until 20 January.

Louth One, Lurgangreen, 29 June (G.O'Neill); One, Knockbridge, 4 December (E.Larrissey).

A total of six new birds is a new high for this elegant egret, although the possibility that some of these records refer to the same birds, or to birds remaining from previous years cannot be discounted.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* (121; 11)

Clare One, River Fergus, Ennis, 23 to 27 July, photographed (B.Howell *et al.*).

Cork Two: One, Youghal Dump, 16 January (H.Hussey), seen flying up the Blackwater River into Waterford, see below; One, Pilmore 21 to 22 October, photographed (C.Cullen *et al.*).

Meath Two, Ardcath, 5 August, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Tipperary One, Thurles, 9 January (K.Preston).

Waterford One, Blackwater River, 16 January (H.Hussey), also seen in Cork, see above; One, Tramore back-strand, 10 May (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford Four: First-winter and second-winter, North Slob, 1 to 18 January, photographed (P.O'Sullivan, A.Walsh *et al.*); One, Tacumshin, 10 May, photographed (M.Cowming, S.Enright, M.O'Keeffe *et al.*); One,



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*.

River Fergus, Ennis, Co. Clare, 27 July 2008 (John N. Murphy).



Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*.

Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, 10 May 2008 (Michael O'Keeffe).

Tacumshin, 26 December (D.Daly).

The second-winter on the North Slob had been ringed as a nestling at the Fao colony in Doñana, Spain on the 3rd of June 2006 and was subsequently relocated in Britain at Donna Nook, Lincolnshire on 31st January (*Birding World* 21: 46 & Hudson *et al.* 2009). The total of eleven birds for the year is the highest since 1934 and the second highest total ever, with the first records for both Meath and Tipperary.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* (202; 4)

Cork Juvenile/first-winter, Glounthane and Great Island, 7 February to 10 April, photographed (O.Foley, S.Ronayne *et al.*).

Kerry One, Cromane, Castlemaine Harbour from 2 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 588) remained to 22 March, photographed.

Mayo Juvenile/first-winter, Westport Harbour, 25 August (S.Geraty).

Wexford Adult, Tacumshin, 28 September, photographed (N.Keogh *et al.*).

Wicklow One, Kilcoole, 27 April (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Cork Adult, near Old Head of Kinsale, 12 to 14 September, photographed (R.O'Driscoll *et al.*).

Galway One, Letterfrack, 6 October (T.Tarpey).

Limerick One, Lough Gur, 19 to 26 September (G.Hunt *et al.*).

Tipperary Adult Summer, Lough Ourna, 26 to 27 May (F.O'Duffy *et al.*).

Waterford One, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 17 January to 2 March, photographed (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford One, Wexford Harbour from 18 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 587) remained to 13 January.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (91; 1)

Down One, Greyabbey, 14 November (J.Larkin).

This bird was untagged and therefore assumed not to have originated from a re-introduction scheme (see comments in the Irish Rare Bird Report 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 590)).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Wexford Five: First-summer male, Great Saltee Island, 10 May, photographed (R.H.Coombes, J.F.Dowdall, K.Grace *et al.*); Adult female, Tacumshin, 14 to 15 May, photographed (A.G.Kelly *et al.*); First-summer, South Slob, 26 July, photographed (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly *et al.*); Female, The Cull, 7 September (K.Grace); Immature/female, Ring Marsh, 27 September (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly).

Wicklow Adult female, near Killoughter, 11 May (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly); Adult female, Kilcoole, 22 May (J.Cockram).

Seven for the year represents the best year on record and the two September birds are the first in that month since 1971.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Antrim One, Greenmount College, 20 April (S.McWilliams).

Down Male and female, Belvoir Forest Park, 17 to 28 March (D.Charles, E.Randall); Male, Quoile Pondage NNR, 31 March (G.Wilkinson).

Londonderry Male and female, University of Ulster, Coleraine, 1 to 2 February (J.Clarke, K.Perry).

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* (23; 1)

Dublin Female, Junction 13 of M50, near Sandyford, 15 May (N.Hatch).

A typical date, and the location, while atypical, is not quite unprecedented – a female was recorded in the Phoenix Park, Dublin in June 1976 (*Irish Birds* 1: 78).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* (154; 26)

Clare One, Keevagh, Quin, 8 to 10 May, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Five: One, Sherkin Island, Cork, 10 May (J.Wyllie); One, Mizen Head and Lissagriffin, 12 May (D.Ballard); First-summer, Belgooley, 13 May (P.Moore, G.Walsh); One, Skibbereen, 5 June (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Brow Head, 28 September, photographed (R.Vaughan *et al.*).

Dublin One, Shankill, 13 July (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster).

Galway Three: One, near Loughrea, 6 May (C.Cullen, G.Oliver); One, Golden Bay, Cong, 31 May (T.Tarpey); Juvenile, Inishmore, 5 to 6 October (D.Breen, R.Vaughan).

Kildare One, The Curragh, 13 July (S.O'Byrne).

Londonderry Adult, Long Point, Lough Beg, 17 September (R.D.Steele).

Offaly One, Turraun Lake, 11 May (T.Chadwick).

Tipperary One, Lough Derg, 11 May (Jn.Wilson).

Waterford Three: One, Bunmahon, 10 May (N.Mugan); Two, undisclosed locality, 28 May (N.Mugan).

Wexford Six: Tacumshin, Two: 10 to 15 May (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly); sub-adult, 20 July (N.Keogh, D.Murphy *et al.*); First-summer, South Slob, 10 to 11 May, photographed (A.A.Kelly, P.Kelly *et al.*); First-summer, Carnsore Point, 15 May, photographed (E.Sweeney *et al.*) and assumed the same bird, Ring Marsh, 18 May to 2 June, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Ballyvaloo, 1 to 3 June (T.Shevlin *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 50: 26; One, Lady's Island Lake, 13 July (J.N.Murphy).

Wicklow Three: One, Fassaroe, Bray, 11 May (N.T.Keogh, P.King, S.King); One, Five-mile-point, 11 to 14 May (M.Boyle *et al.*); Two, Killoughter, 13 May to 17 June, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); One, Killoughter, 9 to 17 June (M.Boyle *et al.*).

This is the fourth good year in succession, following nine in 2005, a record ten in 2006 and nine again in 2007. However, the twenty-six occurring this year sets a new record by a considerable margin. The three for Galway are the first for the county. The series of sightings in the Killoughter and Five-mile-point areas is presumed to refer to a total of two birds.

Crane *Grus grus* (83; 4)

Cork Adult, Pearson's Bridge, near Ballylickey, 20 to 21 October, photographed (M.Cobley *et al.*); Adult, Croagh Bay, near Schull, 22 October, photographed (P.Wolstenholme); One, Durrus, 1 December (M.Cobley).



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.
Ballyvaloo, Co. Wexford. 3 June 2008
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Adult Crane *Grus grus*.
Bantry, Co. Cork, 21 October 2008 (Richard T. Mills).



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*.
Clonakilty Estuary, Co. Cork, 27 December 2008
(Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).

Wicklow One, Kilcoole, 1 June, photographed (M.Boyle).

The current decade has the highest ever numbers, with eighteen individuals recorded. With this species now breeding in Britain (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999), albeit in small numbers (Holling *et al.* 2008), one wonders could wanderers from this population be a source of this increase?



First-summer male **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*.
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 10 May 2008 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*.
Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, 26 April 2008
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Adult **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*.
The Mullet, Co. Mayo, 1 June 2008 (Pat Lonergan).



Adult female **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, 19 April 2008
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



Adult female **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.
Tacumshin Lake, Co. Wexford, 11 May 2008 (Mícheál Cowming)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* (51; 2)

Cork One, Little Island, 27 May (J.Lynch).

Tipperary Male, Lough Ourna, 27 May, photographed (F.O'Duffy *et al.*).

The peak month of occurrence for this species is March, with thirteen individuals, although this is heavily skewed by the unprecedented influx in 1990 which accounts for eleven of these. Nonetheless, with April having recorded ten individuals against nine in May, the occurrence pattern here is certainly tending towards early in the spring. See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (139; 2)

Cork One, Clonakilty Estuary, 24 to 27 December, photographed (M.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Wexford One, Tacumshin, 15 March, photographed (T.Kilbane *et al.*).

The Cork record is the first for that county this decade, however small groups of this species regularly wintered in Cork in the 1950's and 1960's, with the last recorded wintering in that county being in Ballycotton in the winter of 1992/93 (*Irish Birds* 5: 88 & 5: 218).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* (71; 5)

Cork Female, Mallow Sugar-factory Lagoons, 15 to 25 June, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); Juvenile, Ballycotton 1 to 2 September (G.Walsh *et al.*).

Dublin Juvenile, Swords Estuary, 26 August, photographed (J.K.Lovatt *et al.*).

Wexford One, Lady's Island Lake, 26 April, photographed (J.N.Murphy *et al.*); Juvenile, Tacumshin, 22 September (E.Dempsey).

The sequence of records from the Ballycotton/Ballymacoda area continues to its sixth year. While Cork and Wexford between them account for over half of the total, the record in Dublin is not without precedent, this being the third record for Swords Estuary and the species was added to the Irish List in 1953 when a group of four was found together on the North Bull Island, Dublin on the 17th September (*IBR* 1: 10).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (265; 3)

Cork One, Dursey Island, 22 August (D.A.Scott).

Wexford Adult female, Tacumshin, 13 April to 11 May (N.Keogh, *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 50: 27.

Wicklow Juvenile, Lugnaquilla, 7 September, photographed (K.Carroll).

While the twenty-nine day stay of the adult female in Tacumshin is noteworthy, it falls well short of the record fifty days that a juvenile remained in Tacumshin during the autumn of 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 557).

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica (101; 17)

Clare Three: Juvenile, Loop Head, 11 October, photographed (J.N.Murphy); Juvenile, Doonbeg, 15 to 19 October, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*); Juvenile, Doonbeg, 14 November (S.Nugent), possibly the same as the bird in October, but treated as different in the totals.

Cork Three: One, Ballycotton, 7 September (D.O'Sullivan); presumed same, Ballycotton, 15 September (G.Walsh); Juvenile, Inchydoney, 21 October (M.Sullivan *et al.*); Adult, Ballymacoda, 27 October, photographed (C.Cullen).

Galway Juvenile, Omev Island, 5 to 13 November, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry Three: Blackrock Strand, Two: Adult summer, 20 August (P.J.McDermot); Juvenile, 2 November (M.Flanagan); Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 11 to 15 September (E.Carty, D.A.O'Connor *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 357, 361, *Dutch Birding* 30: 431, *Birdwatch* 197: 73.

Mayo Three: Annagh, The Mullet, Two: Adult summer, 31 May to 7 June (P.Troake *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 271, *Birdwatch* 195: 72; Juvenile, 8 to 14 October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Adult, Lacken Back Strand, 2 October (J.Donaldson).

Waterford Juvenile, The Cunnigar, Dungarvan, 8 November, photographed (M.Cowling, C.Flynn).

Wexford Juvenile, Tacumshin 13 September (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly *et al.*).

Wicklow Two: Adult or first-summer, Six-mile-point, 22 May (N.T.Keogh); One, Kilcoole, 17 September (E.Dempsey).

A very good year, only two short of the record set in 2006. With only six birds having been found between April and June in the past, the two May records above are notable. As in the series for 2007, four more were found in November, increasing that month's total to eighteen from 2004 to date. See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* (97; 8)

Cork Three: Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 21 to 22 August, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); Juvenile, Cockle Beach, near Crookhaven, 26 August (D.Ballard); Juvenile, Ballycotton, 12 to 21 September (D.O'Sullivan *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 51: 33.

Dublin Two: Juvenile, Rogerstown, 16 September (G.Frank, P.Kelly *et al.*); Juvenile, North Bull Island, 25 September (M.Stewart).

Galway Juvenile, Kilmurvey, Inishmore, 13 October (H.Delaney).

Kerry Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 13 to 14 September, photographed (R.Bonser *et al.*).

Mayo Juvenile, Belmullet, 29 to 30 August (D.Suddaby *et al.*).

A good year, only exceeded by eleven in 2006 and eighteen in 1999. Almost two-thirds of the total have been found in September.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri* (3; 1)

Galway Adult, Omev Island, 13 to 14 September (D.Breen *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 358, *Dutch Birding* 30: 351.

The fourth for Ireland, and the latest to date. This species is by far the rarest of the North American stints in Europe, explained by the fact that it migrates mainly through the Pacific Provinces and States (Snow and Perrins 1998). The identification of this species can be difficult, the primary confusion species being Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*. Despite the passage of time, the seminal paper by Jonsson and Grant (1984) remains the definitive work on the identification of the small Calidrid species.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* (38; 2)

Londonderry Two, Lough Beg NNR, 25 May (D.Hunter).

Two have occurred together on three previous occasions – in Wexford and Kerry in 1973 and at Belfast Harbour Estate, Down in May 1987. Indeed, the totals for this species have been adjusted to include the second individual in 1987 (*Irish Birds* 5: 459) which had hitherto not been included in the statistics. There is a distinct northern bias to the spring records of this species, with all seven birds found up to mid June having occurred in Londonderry, Down or Louth.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Calidris fuscicollis (225; 8)

Cork Two: Juvenile, Ballycotton, 15 to 18 October, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); One, Timoleague, 24 October (P.Wolstenholme).

Donegal One, Malin Head, 27 August (D.O'Hara).

Kerry One, Carrahane Strand, 17 September (F.King).

Londonderry Adult, Ballykelly, Lough Foyle, 19 September to 11 October (B.Robson, M.Tickner *et al.*), photograph *Birdwatch* 197: 72.

Mayo Adult, Leam Lough, The Mullet, 24 October (D.Suddaby).

Wexford Two: One, Tacumshin, 16 to 19 July, photographed (P.Lonergan, K.Mullarney); Adult, The Cull, 4 September (T.Murray).

An average year, but including the first for Donegal.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* (98; 12)

Cork Two: Adult, Ballycotton, 1 to 2 August (D.O'Sullivan, G.Walsh *et al.*); Juvenile, Ballycotton 18 to 22 September, photographed (S.Cronin *et al.*).

Kerry Six: Juvenile, Carrahane Strand, 4 to 25 September, photographed (F.King *et al.*); Juvenile, Blackrock Strand, 6 to 20 September, photographed (R.Moores *et al.*); Juvenile, Burnham Lagoon, Dingle, 1 to 2 October, photographed (J.Gilroy); Juvenile, Ventry, 2 October, photographed (J.Gilroy); Juvenile, Derrymore Island, 3 October, photographed (J.Gilroy); Juvenile, Blackrock Strand, 27 October (G.Hunt).

Mayo Two: Juvenile, Leam Lough, the Mullet, 7 September (D.Suddaby *et al.*); Juvenile, near Leam Lough, the Mullet, 1 October (A.Crory, N.Warnock *et al.*).

Wexford Two: One, Tacumshin, 20 September (T.Kilbane); Juvenile, Tacumshin, 1 October (B.Haslam).

A record showing, exceeding the 2006 total by two. The three week stay of the juvenile on Carrahane Strand, while notable, is not unprecedented, as, in the past, some individuals have stayed for more than a month in Tacumshin, Wexford and Ballycotton, Cork. Indeed, this bird is two days short of the record stay in Kerry, in Ballyferriter in 2006!

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis (305; 19)

Clare Juvenile, Loop Head, 27 to 29 August, photographed (J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent *et al.*).

Cork Five: Juvenile, Pilmore Strand, 31 August (P.Moore); Up to three juveniles, Ballycotton, 2 to 19 September, photographed (P.Moore, G.Walsh *et al.*); Juvenile, Redbarn Strand, 17 September, photographed (M.O'Keeffe).

Dublin Three: Juvenile, North Bull Island, 15 to 17 September (T.Cooney, K.Dooney); Two juveniles, North Bull Island, 2 October, photographed (P.Kelly).

Galway Two: Juvenile, Omev Island, 13 September (D.Breen *et al.*); Juvenile, Aughrusbeg Lough, 9 October (M.Hoit, K.Langdon, T.Lowe).

Kerry Up to five juveniles, Carrahane Strand, 8 to 22 September (R.Bonser, O.Foley *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 361, *Dutch Birding* 30: 431, *Birdwatch* 197: 73.

Londonderry Juvenile, Myroe Levels, Lough Foyle, 4 to 12 October (K.Bennett, D.Charles *et al.*).

Wexford Two juveniles, Tacumshin, 20 to 28 September, photographed (T.Kilbane, T.Murray *et al.*).

A good total, only exceeded by thirty-one recorded in 2006. The last year without any records for this species in Ireland was as far back as 1964. The two in Galway are only the fifth and sixth individuals for that county, with the bird on Omev Island sharing that location with more exalted Nearctic company in the form of a Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*.

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus (94; 6)

Clare Adult, Shannon Airport Lagoon, 19 to 21 April (J.N.Murphy, S.Nugent *et al.*), also seen 26 July (D.Breen *et al.*), presumed returning individual; One, Lough Donnell, 23 September (S.Nugent).

Cork One, Lough Beg, 5 October (J.Diggin).

Galway Two: Juvenile, Rahasane Turlough, 27 to 28 September, photographed (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*); Juvenile, Inishmore, 4 to 10 October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Londonderry The bird present at Lough Beg, from 8 October 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 595), remained until 5 February.

Louth Adult summer, Dundalk Docks, 19 to 28 August, photographed (E.Larrissety *et al.*), presumed returning individual and presumed same, Soldier's Point and Dundalk Harbour, 28 October to 15 March 2009, photographed (G.O'Neill *et al.*).

Mayo One, Roonah Lough, 7 October (E.McGreal).

Tipperary One, Ashton's Callows, 17 April, (P.Brennan, A.Copland *et al.*).

This species has a long history of returning and overwintering.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* (3; 1)

Cork Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 27 to 30 August (B.Haslam, D.Roche, S.Wing *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 316, 508, *British Birds* 101: 583, *Wings* 51: 33.

The second for Cape Clear Island and the first since three occurred over six years from 1968 to 1974 in the south-west. The gap of thirty-four years seems inexplicable as in the intervening time Britain has seen some sixteen records, so they were occurring there at a rate of one in just over two years. Despite its four day stay, this bird could at times be remarkably elusive, being difficult to track down once it left its favoured location. In a remarkable purple patch on Cape Clear Island, this bird was first seen flying over a small group of observers watching a Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* and the subsequent search for it unearthed a Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*!



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*.
Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 17 September 2008 (Paul Archer).



Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*.
Ballycotton, Co. Cork, 13 September 2008
(Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).



Juvenile Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*.
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 29 August 2008
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* (left) and juvenile **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*
Ballycotton, Co. Cork. 13 September 2008 (Mark Carmody, www.markcarmodyphotography.com).



Adult **Western Sandpiper** *Calidris mauri*.
Omey Island, Co. Galway, 13 September 2008 (Michael Davis).



Juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*.
Blackrock Strand, Co. Kerry, 6 September 2008 (Ed Carty)



Juvenile Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*.
Cross Lough, Co. Mayo, 14 September 2008 (Dave Dillon).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* (120; 5)

Cork The first-winter, Rosscarbery, mid-October 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 595) remained to 26 April, photographed; Juvenile, Clonakilty, 12 to 16 November, photographed (D.G.McAdams *et al.*).

Kerry Juvenile, Burnham Lagoon, Dingle 4 to 6 September, photographed (R.Bonser, J.Crosher, J.Jones *et al.*).

Londonderry Adult, Lough Beg NNR, 3 to 17 June (R.D.Steele, M.Tickner).

Mayo Juvenile, Cross Lough, The Mullet, 12 to 15 September (B.Black, D.Dillon, J.McNally *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 51: 33.

Wexford Juvenile, Tacumshin, 24 September to 1 October (E.Sweeney *et al.*).

This species has been found in all months of the year but the June record is only the second found in that month. See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Clare One, Bridges of Ross, 22 June (K.Mullarney).

Donegal Male, Blanket Nook, Lough Swilly, 5 June (A.Robb).

Offaly Female, Lough Boora Parklands, 30 May to 7 June, photographed (P.Brennan *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

This is the second year in succession that this species has occurred in both Offaly and Donegal in early June. Although breeding has never been proven in Offaly, single pairs bred in Donegal in nine years between 1916 and 1934 (Kennedy, Ruttledge & Scroope, 1954). The Clare bird is only the third for that county but probably the first seen on a sea-watch in Ireland.

Long-tailed Skua

Stercorarius longicaudus (692; 52)

Clare Sixteen: Bridges of Ross, Thirteen: Three, 15 August (M.Carmody, N.Davidson); One, 16 August (M.Carmody, N.Davidson); Adult, 29 August (T.Kuppel *et al.*); Two juvenile, 2 September (D.G.McAdams, K.Mullarney *et al.*); Juvenile, 30 September (D.G.McAdams *et al.*); Four juvenile and one adult, 1 October

(J.N.Murphy *et al.*); Two Adult, Loop Head, 19 August (D.G.McAdams); Juvenile, Kilbaha, 1 October (J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Cork Four: Adult and juvenile, Galley Head, 10 September (K.Cronin, P.Moore, D.O'Sullivan), both also seen at Toe Head later, where an additional adult and juvenile were seen, 10 September (D.G.McAdams).

Donegal Four: Two, 28 August, Arranmore Island (A.McMillan, M.Souter); Two, Melmore Head, 1 October (E.Randall).

Down Two: Adult, Copeland Island, 25 September (K.Leonard, N.McKee); One, Copeland Island, 4 October (K.Leonard, N.McKee).

Dublin Three: Juvenile, Skerries, 5 September, photographed (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly); Adult, Skerries, 6 September (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly); Juvenile, Skerries, 6 September (D.Dillon, J.K.Lovatt, J.Roe).

Galway Two: Adult, Off Cleggan, 31 August, photographed (A.Ó'Dónaill *et al.*); Juvenile, Baile na hAbhainn, 19 October (A.Ó'Dónaill).

Mayo Thirteen: adult, Annagh Head, 22 August (D.Suddaby); Juvenile, Annagh Head, 2 September (D.Suddaby); Nine, Broadhaven Bay, 4 September (C.Benson); Adult, Kilcummin Head, 12 September (B.Black, D.Dillon, J.McNally); Juvenile, Kilcummin Head, 2 October (D.Charles *et al.*).

Sligo Three adult, Lendoon Head, 12 September (S.Feeney).

Wexford Five: Two, Carne Beach, 28 August (D.Daly); Juvenile, Greenore Point, 5 September (K.Mullarney); Two juvenile, Carnsore Point, 6 September (K.Grace).

The highest total since 1993.

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia (52; 5)

Cork Two: Adult, Ballycotton, 30 August (D.O'Sullivan); Adult, Rosscarbery, 1 December, photographed (M.O'Sullivan *et al.*).

Down Adult, Kinnegar Shore and Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 28 April (D.Charles).

Kerry Two: Adult, Milltown Harbour, Dingle, 21 to 27 April, photographed (M.O'Clery *et al.*); Adult, Castlemaine Harbour, 30 July to 3 August, photographed (B.Threlfall *et al.*).

See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.



Adult **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*.
Off Cleggan, Co. Galway, 31 August 2008 (Tom Cuffe, www.iol.ie/~birdsgalway).



First-winter **American Herring Gull** *Larus smithsonianus*.
Galway Docks, 8 February 2008 (Derek Charles).



First-winter **Kumlien's Gull** *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*.
Killybegs, Co. Donegal. 14 March 2008 (Derek Charles).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* (41; 1)

Mayo Adult summer, Aghleam Bay, The Mullet, 22 June (D.Suddaby).

Only the second for Mayo, following one in 2000. See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus* (81; 3)

Clare Juvenile/first-winter, near Cloghaun Lough, Loop Head, 29 March, photographed (F.MacGabhann, J.N.Murphy *et al.*).

Galway Adult, Nimmo's Pier from 25 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 599) remained to 2 April, photographed and returned to the same location 6 December to 15 March 2009 (T.Cuffe *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 491; Juvenile/first-winter, Nimmo's Pier 24 January to 10 May (M.Davis *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 6, *Wings* 49: 24, *British Birds* 101: 224.

Kerry First-winter, Dingle, 11 January (E.Carty).

The first record for Clare in an otherwise unremarkable year.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni* (113; 18)

Antrim Two: Second-winter, Dargan Bay from 30 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 599), remained to 10 February; Third-winter, Larne Lough and Belfast Lough RSPB Reserve, 26 February to 30 March (K.Bennett, D.Charles, C.Moore), photograph *Birdwatch* 190: 69; Third-winter, Corbally Dam, Portrush, 21 December (D.Charles).

Cork Three: Adult, The Lough, 25 January to 21 February, photographed (J.Diggin *et al.*), presumed same, Ballycotton, 8 February, photographed (P.Moore); First-winter, The Lough and Cork City Centre, 7 February to 14 March, photographed (R.Mundy *et al.*); First-winter, Bantry, 26 December (J.Diggin).

Donegal Nine: Six at Killybegs: Sub-adult, 19 January (D.Charles); Adult and first-winter, 26 January (D.Breen, M.Davis); Adult, 29 February to 8 March, photographed (R.Bonser *et al.*); Adult, 1 March to 8 March (D.Charles), photograph *Wings* 49: 25; First-winter 8 to 14 March (D.Charles, W.Farrelly *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 49: 25; Two second-winter, Greencastle, 26 January to 24 February, photographed (D.Charles *et al.*), one later seen in Co. Galway, see below; Adult, Greencastle and Merville, 16 to 24 February (D.Charles *et al.*), photographed.

K.Fahy (on behalf of the Irish Rare Birds Committee)

Down One: Third-winter, Green Island, Dundrum, 28 March (K.Bennett, D.Charles, A.Croly).

Galway Two: Two second-winters, Nimmo's Pier from 1 and 20 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 599) remained to 2 April and to 17 January respectively, both photographed; Second-winter, Rossaveal (*Irish Birds* 8: 599) from 2 December 2007 remained to 23 February, photographed. Second-winter, Rossaveal, 22 February to 2 March, photographed (L.Gregory, G.Sellor) was later seen at Nimmo's Pier, 16 March, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*) and had previously been seen at Greencastle, Co. Donegal, see above; Second-winter, Nimmo's Pier, 9 February to 24 March, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*); Third-winter, Waterside and Nimmo's Pier, 26 December to 28 March 2009, photographed (T.Cuffe *et al.*), returning bird; Third-winter, Clifden, 18 December to 7 March 2009, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

Kerry One: Sub-adult, Reenard Point, Caherciveen from 22 September 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 599) remained to 2 February, photographed; First-winter, Dingle, 6 March (E.Carty).

The bird from the 1st of December 2007 at Nimmo's Pier had most of its left leg missing, earning it the sobriquet of 'stumpy' and rendering it unmistakable when it returned in late December. Over half of the total has been found since 2004.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* (20; 1)

Cork One, Kilcolman Reserve, 5 April and 3 May, photographed (M.Hirst *et al.*).

Only the second record more than ten miles from the coast, following one on Goat Island, Lough Derg, Tipperary in June 1987.

American Black Tern

Chlidonias niger surinamensis (4; 0)

2007 Correction: The photograph of the bird at Rahasane Turlough in September 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 599) published as Plate 217 (*Irish Birds* 8: 601) was incorrectly attributed to Michael Davis. The caption should have indicated that the photograph was taken by Tom Cuffe, 3 September 2007.



Adult **Forster's Tern** *Sterna forsteri*.
Nimmo's Pier, Galway, 22 November 2008 (Dermot Breen).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.
Churchtown, Carne, Co. Wexford, 20 September 2008
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.
Churchtown, Carne, Co. Wexford, 17 September 2008
(Dave Daly).



Female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*.
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 10 May 2008
(Michael O'Keefe).

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus (82; 1)

Wicklow One, North of Bray Harbour, 4 June (D.Norris).

Correction: 2006 Cork The Adult recorded on Sherkin Island 19 July 2006 (per *Irish Birds* 8:599) was in 2005, see 2005 Cork below.

2005 Cork Adult, Sherkin Island, 19 July (*CBR* 2005 & 2006: p. 83) was presumably the same individual recorded off Cape Clear Island the next day (*Irish Birds* 8: 387).

The second for Wicklow.

Forster's Tern *Sterna forsteri* (21; 2)

Down Adult, Killyleagh Harbour, 24 February to 10 May (J.Larkin *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 98, *Birdwatch* 191: 68.

Galway Adult, Nimmo's Pier from 22 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600) remained throughout the year and stayed until 17 April 2009, photograph *Birdwatch* 200: 73. Presumed same at Tawin, 20 January (P.Troake) and at Durrus Pier and Traught, 26 January to 8 March, photographed (D.Breen).

Louth Adult, Cruisetown Strand, 4 to 20 October, photographed (D.Hodgers *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Wexford Adult, Wexford Harbour from 30 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600) remained to 13 January; Adult, Tacumshin and Lady's Island Lake, 17 May to 12 July (T.Kilbane *et al.*), photograph *Dutch Birding* 30: 266.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Cork One, Bantry, 24 December (M.Cobley).

Donegal One, Arranmore Island, 27 October (A.McMillan).

Galway One, Rusheen Bay, 10 November (P.Troake).

Louth Two, Clogher Head and, presumed same, Cruisetown Strand, 11 November (E.Flynn, D.Hodgers), photograph *Birding World* 21: 446.

Mayo Sixty-four: 57, Annagh Head, 6 January (D.Brown); Six, Kilcummin Head, 11 November (S.Feeney); One, Kilcummin Head, 20 November (S.Feeney).

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* (70; 2)

Galway Female, Poll Gleann Donail, near Spiddal 15 February (A.Ó'Dónaill, G.O'Donnell *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 55, presumed same as the bird recorded at Moycullen, 16 October 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600).

Mayo Adult female, Termon, Blacksod, The Mullet, 25 March to 18 April (D.Suddaby *et al.*); same individual, 26 August to 13 October, photographed (D.Suddaby *et al.*), returning individual; Female, Slieve Fyagh, 26 June, photographed (C.Clotworthy *et al.*); Juvenile, found injured, died subsequently, Foxford, 31 December, photographed (N.O'Hagan *et al.*)

This species remains the most persistently north-westerly occurring vagrant. The most recent record for Munster was in Clare in 1909, the most recent from the Leinster counties on the east coast was in Dublin in 1880. Indeed, the only Leinster records since that in Dublin were only just over the River Shannon near Athlone in 2006. It is tempting to speculate upon the birthplace of the unfortunate juvenile in Mayo.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba* (70; 3)

Kerry One, Brandon Point, 28 June (A.O'Brien).

Waterford One, Dungarvan, 4 April, photographed (F.O'Connell *et al.*).

Wicklow One, Kilcoole, 31 July (R.H.Coombes).

From March to November, only October is without a record of this large Swift. Notwithstanding the early spring bias, summer records are not unusual, with twenty recorded in June and July.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* (51; 2)

Cork One, Dursey Island, 29 April (D.A.Scott).

Wexford One, Arthurstown, 10 May (G.O'Grady).

The fifth year in succession that this multi-coloured Mediterranean beauty has occurred – this is the longest run for this species and indeed has only occurred in three consecutive years once, between 1998 and 2000.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (212; 6)

Cork Four: One, Dursey Island, 16 May (D.A.Scott); One, Dursey Island, 7 September (D.A.Scott); One, Cape Clear Island, 11 to 14 September, photographed (M.Reilly *et al.*); One, Dursey Island, 14 September (D.A.Scott).

Wexford Two: One, Churchtown, Carne, 17 to 21 September, photographed (D.Daly *et al.*); One, Churchtown, Carne, 20 to 21 September (A.G.Kelly *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 51: 34, additional to the individual already present.

Over 80% of the total has occurred in these two counties, with Cape Clear Island accounting for over one-third of the total.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major (126; 15)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 19 to 20 April, photographed (G.Clarke *et al.*).

Down Five: The same pair from 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600) bred again near Downpatrick, birds being present from 30 April with up to two juveniles present from late July and into August (D.Charles, C.Murphy); One, Castlewelan Forest Park, 19 to 21 July (J.Robinson, R.Straughan); One, Clandeboye Forest Park, Bangor, 28 to 31 July (C.Wallace); One, Tollymore Forest Park, 2 November (A.Crory).

Dublin Female, Deerpark, Howth, 20 April (E.Dempsey, P.Kelly), presumed returning individual; Juvenile, Brittas, 25 July, photographed (M.Markham *et al.*).

Louth Female, near Dromin, 28 August to 4 April 2009, photographed (G.Walker *et al.*).

Wexford Female, Great Saltee Island, 10 May, photographed (R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

Wicklow Six: Male, near Annamoe from 28 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 600) remained to 13 February; One, Tomnafinnoge Wood, from approximately 2 to 12 April, photographed (P.Moore *et al.*); Juvenile, near Kilruddery, Bray, 10 August to 31 October, photographed (E.Flynn *et al.*); Female, Clara Vale, 25 September, photographed (D.Gaynor); Two, heard calling, Clara Vale, 2 November (R.H.Coombes); One, North of Rathdrum, 28 December to 1 January 2009 (R.H.Coombes *et al.*).

Further evidence of the growing (re-)colonisation, with the two juveniles in Dublin and Wicklow suggestive of local breeding.

Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus* (1; 1)

Clare One, Kilbaha, Loop Head, 13 to 14 October (D.G.McAdams *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 413, 513, *Wings* 52: 29, *British Birds* 101: 699.

This is only the third accepted record for the Western Palearctic, with a record in Britain the only accepted record outside of Ireland. The Irish and British records show a remarkable similarity of arrival date, with the first Irish bird being found (also in Cork) on 12th October 1985 and the British record being found 10th October 1987.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* (47; 3)

Mayo Three: One, Cross Lough, The Mullet, 13 September (D.Suddaby *et al.*); One, Annagh Plantation, The Mullet, 16 to 18 September (J.Phillips, V.Phillips *et al.*); One, Fallmore, Blacksod, The Mullet, 11 October, photographed (P.Aley, B.R.Field *et al.*).

Three in Mayo doubles to six the total for the county, which places it joint second with Wexford, far behind Cork, which, with twenty-five, accounts for exactly half of the total. The other records are from Clare (4), Galway (3), Kerry (3) and Waterford (3). This is by far the most commonly occurring Nearctic passerine on the Irish list, as well as in the Western Palearctic, and is the first to hit the landmark half century of records. This is over four times as many records as the next commonest, Yellow-rumped Warbler *Dendroica coronata*, of which there are a total of eleven recorded. In the wider context, to the end of 2007, Red-eyed Vireo has occurred frequently in Britain (107) and Iceland (19), and less frequently in the Azores (10), France (9) and Holland (8), with smaller numbers in Spain (3) and singletons recorded in the Channel Islands, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Morocco and Malta (Slack 2009).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (199; 3)

Cork Three: Male, Dursey Island, 8 May (D.A.Scott); One Cape Clear Island, 9 May, (S.Wing); One, Mizen Head, 27 May (D.Ballard).



Philadelphia Vireo *Vireo philadelphicus*.
Kilbaha, Co. Clare, 14 October 2008 (Stuart Elsom, www.stuartelsom.co.uk).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* (149; 2)

Cork Juvenile, Knockadoon Head, 29 September, photographed (A.Jeffries *et al.*).

Wexford Juvenile, Churchtown, Carne, 16 September (J.Sheehan *et al.*).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* (73; 3)

Cork Two: One, Knockadoon Head, 4 to 5 May, photographed (A.Jeffries *et al.*); One, Mizen Head, 9 May (D.Ballard).

Wexford Juvenile, Hook Head, 16 to 21 September, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*).

A typical series of records consistent with the long term seasonal split of roughly two to one in favour of spring over autumn. With Cork and Wexford between them accounting for seventy of the total, that only three have occurred in Waterford seems inexplicable. The remaining records are two from Dublin and the sole Northern Ireland record in Down in late July 1970 (*IBR* 18: 50).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* (59; 2)

Cork Two: One, Ballycotton, 27 April to 10 May, photographed (G.Walsh *et al.*); One, Mizen Head 7 to 31 May (D.Ballard).

The Ballycotton individual is only the second found in April, the other being found 25 April 1993, also in Ballycotton. Two long-staying birds, with the one on Mizen falling only two days short of the stay of the individual that was recorded in the summer of 2003 in Tacumshin, Wexford (*Irish Birds* 7: 563).

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (29; 3)

Cork Two: One, Ballycotton, 6 May (G.Walsh); One, Lough Aderra, 6 to 7 May (I.Hill *et al.*).

Wexford One, Great Saltee Island, 12 May, photographed (E.O'Sullivan *et al.*); presumed same, Great Saltee Island, 14 May (D.Coney).

A good year, exceeded only by the six that occurred in 2007. There were only three previous records in May of a species that has been found in most months of the year, only August and the mid-winter months of December and January being without a record.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (31; 1)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 15 September (S.Wing).

Including this bird, nineteen have been found in September and Cape Clear Island has hosted thirteen, all in autumn.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* (14; 1)

Down One, trapped and ringed, Copeland Island, 12 to 13 October (CBO).

This, the first for Northern Ireland was observed only when trapped on both days of its stay and was never seen in the field. All of the Irish records of this species have occurred in October, the majority in Cork (8), with six counties having recorded singletons – Wexford, Waterford, Dublin, Louth, Mayo, and Donegal in addition to the Down record above.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 15 to 19 October, photographed (P.Kelly *et al.*).

Observers are reminded that, as and from the first of January 2010 this taxon has been moved from Appendix 2 to Appendix 1 (see www.irbc.ie/announcements/announce47.php). This change means that future records of this form will require full documentation prior to inclusion in the relevant Irish Rare Bird Report.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* (123; 8)

Cork Four: One, Cape Clear Island, 7 to 8 September (R.H.Coombes *et al.*); First-year, Firkeel, Beara Peninsula, 27 September (K.Grace); One, Brow Head, 28 September (R.Vaughan *et al.*); First-year, Mizen Head, 17 to 20 October (D.Ballard, N.Linehan, P.Wolstenholme).

Galway First-year, Inishbofin, 6 October, photographed (E.Dempsey).

Kerry First-year, Coumeenoole, Dingle Peninsula, 11 to 12 September, photographed (J.Crosher, S.Redican *et al.*).

Wexford Two: First-year, Fethard-on-Sea, 25 to 26 November (L.Ryan *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 52: 30; First-year, Tullybards Cross Roads, Kilmore, 29 November (K.Grace).

2004 Galway First-year, Inishmore, 8 October (D.Breen).



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi*.
Copeland Island, Co. Down, 12 October 2008 (Philip Galbraith).

This series of records represents the highest annual total ever, with, incredibly, the record for Kerry being the first for that county. The Galway records are only the third and fourth for the county, and the first since 1970. Cape Clear Island accounts for over one-third of the total, with the bird in September being the forty-fourth for the Island.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* (35; 7)

Cork Three: Female, Dursey Island, 7 to 8 May (D.A.Scott); Male and female, Mizzen Head, 9 May (D.Ballard).

Mayo Male, in song, Erris Head, The Mullet, 14 May, photographed (C.Benson *et al.*).

Waterford Male, Brownstown Head, 4 May (P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Wexford Two: Male, Hook Head, 20 to 21 April, photographed (K.Grace *et al.*); Male, Great Saltee Island, 11 May, (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 50: 28.

Seven in a year is a new peak for this diminutive *Sylvia*, eclipsing the previous high of four in 1992 and 2000, with both Mayo and Waterford recording the species for the first time, although a 2007 record for Mayo, suspected to be of the eastern form *S.c.albistriata* is still in circulation.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* (209; 1)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 11 May (P.Phillips *et al.*).

For the second year in a row, just one individual.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* (172; 10)

Cork Six: One, near Red Strand, Galley Head, 12 to 13 September (S.Cronin *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 51: 34; One, Dursey Island, 14 September (D.A.Scott); Up to two, Old Head of Kinsale, 16 to 20 September, photographed (G.Clarke, S.Cronin, H.Hussey, R.McLaughlin *et al.*); One, Galley Head, 19 September (P.Phillips); One, Firkeel, Beara Peninsula, 26 September (K.Grace).

Waterford Two, Brownstown Head 16 to 18 September, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*).

Wexford Two: One, Hook Head, 20 to 21 September (A.McMillan *et al.*); One, Great Saltee Island, 20 September (O.J.Merne *et al.*).

Following a blank year in 2007, this species makes a welcome return, and, in contrast to Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*, in almost record numbers. The total of ten has only been bettered twice - by the occurrence of fifteen in both 1983 and 1962.



Male Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*..
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 11 May 2008
(Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).



Male Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*..
Hook Head, Co. Wexford, 20 April 2008 (Dave Daly).



First-year **Bared Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*.
Fethard-on-Sea, Co. Wexford, 26 November 2008 (Liam Ryan).



Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*.
Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, 18 September 2008 (Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me>).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* (121; 1)

Galway Juvenile, Inishmore, 7 October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

The lowest total since the blank year of 1999.

White's Thrush *Zoothera dauma* (4; 1)

Galway One, Inishbofin, 28 September (A.McGeehan).

One of the few eastern vagrants in an autumn heavily weighted towards the west, this excellent find was typically elusive and short staying. The temporal distribution of the five Irish records is not what might be expected of an eastern vagrant, with this being the first autumn record. The three nineteenth century records consisted of two winter records and one spring record which, together with the more recent April record from Down in 1993 is at odds with the classic autumnal appearance of a Siberian vagrant. Viewed in a wider context however, the early Irish records fit with the pattern of the time, as pre-1950 records for Britain also display a winter bias, with fifty-seven per cent of these records occurring between December and February (Slack 2009).

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus* (4; 1)

Cork First-year, Dirk Bay, Galley Head, 11 October (C.Styles, M.Styles *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 411, *Wings* 52: 30, *Dutch Birding* 30: 428, *Birdwatch* 198: 73.

Following two records in the 1990's, this is the first for the current decade and the fourth for Cork, all of which have been found between 8 and 14 October. The anomalous fifth record from Mayo in May 1956 remains the only spring record of this species in the Western Palearctic. The finders of this bird have an enviable record with finding *Catharus* thrushes in Ireland. They have now found all three species currently on the Irish List, having previously found both a Hermit Thrush *Catharus guttatus* (*Irish Birds* 6: 398) and a Grey-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus* (*Irish Birds* 8: 389).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* (35; 1)

Waterford First-summer male, Saleen, Brownstown Head, 21 to 22 April, photographed (B.Murphy, E.Murphy, P.Power).

Only the third April record of a species that primarily occurs in Ireland in the autumn, with twenty-six of the total having occurred between late August and the single November record. Unfortunately, the age of this bird precludes racial identification, however, the early date might point to this bird being of the white-spotted form *L.s. cyanecula* – most of the spring records of this subspecies occurring in Britain prior to 23rd April, whereas *L.s. svecica* occurs almost exclusively after this date (Sharrock 1974).

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* (235; 9)

Cork Eight: One, Cape Clear Island, 19 April (A.Horan); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 20 April (P.Wolstenholme); First-winter, Mizen Head, 16 September (D.Ballard); First-winter, Mizen Head, 27 September (A.Duggan *et al.*); First-winter, Cape Clear Island, 11 October (P.Kelly); First-winter, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 16 October (D.Ballard *et al.*); Different first-winter, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 17 October, photographed (N.Linehan *et al.*); First-winter, Dirk Bay, Galley Head, 3 November, photographed (K.Cronin *et al.*).

Galway First-winter, Inishmore, 12 October, photographed (D.Breen *et al.*).

The two spring records from Cork are the earliest on record, with only one other spring record, in Louth in May of 1983 (*Irish Birds* 2: 574). The recently split Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* (Svensson *et al.* 2005), has occurred in Britain (Chapman 2005, Lasey 2005, Rogers *et al.* 2005) and could potentially occur in Ireland. For those lucky enough to find an adult male in spring, Taiga Flycatcher is told by the restricted amount of red in the throat and a conspicuous grey gorget below this. First-year birds in autumn are far trickier to identify, with Taiga Flycatcher showing overall a colder plumage and lacking the buffy tones on the throat and upper breast and additionally lacking the pale bill base shown by *parva*. The call of Taiga Flycatcher is diagnostic and this may prove to be the first clue that alerts an observer to the presence of this taxon. A recording of this call and photographs would greatly assist the Committee in its deliberations! In addition to the references cited above, further analysis of the identification of Taiga Flycatcher is found in Cederroth *et al.* 1999.



Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*.
Brownstown Head, Co. Waterford, 16 September 2008
(Paul Archer).



First-year Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*.
Dirk Bay, Galley Head, Co. Cork, 11 October 2008
(Michael O'Keeffe).



Adult **Blue-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flava*.
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 12 October 2008 (Peter Phillips).



Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*.
Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford, 11 May 2008 (Tom Shevlin, www.wildlifesnaps.com).

Blue-headed Wagtail

Motacilla flava flava (54; 3)

Antrim Female, Ballymena ECOS Park, 11 June (J.Larkin, R.D.Steele).

Cork Adult and juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 11 to 14 October, photographed (P.Phillips, T.Shevlin *et al.*).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* (18; 1)

Londonderry Juvenile, Mullagh, Lough Beg 13 to 21 September (R.D.Steele *et al.*).

Despite its long stay, this bird, a first for Northern Ireland, was very elusive and was only seen by a handful of observers.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* (90; 3)

Cork Three: One, Lissagriffin, 3 October (N.Linehan *et al.*); One, Cape Clear Island, 27 October (A.Cook); One, Ballycotton, 5 November (H.Hussey *et al.*).

See Appendix 5 for details of correction to statistics.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* (34; 2)

Waterford One, Brownstown Head, 27 April, photographed (M.Cowming, S.Enright, C.Flynn, C.Foley *et al.*).

Wexford One, Great Saltee Island, 10 to 11 May (J.F.Dowdall *et al.*), photograph *Wings* 50: 28.

A good, although not unprecedented, spring showing from a species for which there is a roughly sixty-forty split in favour of autumn.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* (34; 1)

Cork One, Cape Clear Island, 12 October (M.Carmody *et al.*).

Scandinavian Rock Pipit

Anthus petrosus littoralis (26; 2)

Waterford Up to two, Ballinclammer, Clonea Strand, 21 to 30 March, photographed (C.Flynn, J.Power, P.M.Walsh *et al.*).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* (86; 12)

Clare Three: One, Clahane Beach, Liscannor, from 31 October 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602) remained to 19 January, photographed; One, Lough Muree, 13 February (P.Troake); One, Flaggy Shore, Ballyvaughan, 8 March (T.Lynch, F.MacGabhann); One, Kilbaha, 4 to 6 November, photographed (D.G.McAdams); One, Clahane Beach, Liscannor, 12 November to 23 December, photographed (D.McNamara *et al.*), presumed returning individual.

Cork One: The small party in the Pilmore Strand area from 15 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602) which had contained three birds peaked at four individuals 15 January, with one remaining until 20 March.

Donegal One, Ballywhoriskey Pier, Fanad Head, 16 to 17 March (W.Farrelly).

Dublin One, Broadmeadows, Swords Estuary, 27 February (R.Vaughan).

Galway One, Lough Anraun, Rinvile, Oranmore 26 January (P.Troake).

Waterford One, Ballinclammer, Clonea, 25 January to 2 February, photographed (C.Flynn *et al.*).

Wexford Three: One, The Cull, 26 January (K.Grace); Two, Tacumshin, 2 April (K.Mullarney), presumed to be two of the birds present at this site since 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602); One, Tacumshin, 4 October (P.Keating); Two, Tacumshin, 16 November to 18 February 2009 (P.Kelly *et al.*), presumed to include the individual seen 4 October.

Wicklow One, East Coast Nature Reserve, Kilcoole, 15 April (H.Delaney).

Twelve new individuals is less than half of the record showing from 2007 but a very good year nonetheless. Up to 1995 there were only thirteen records but, since then, this species has proven to be regular in winter in the east of the country, particularly in south Wexford, which accounts for almost half of the total number. The Donegal bird is the first for that county.



Female **Blue-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flava*.
Ballymena ECOS Park, Co. Antrim, 11 June 2008
(David Steele).



Juvenile **Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*.
Mullagh, Lough Beg, Co. Londonderry (David Steele).



Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*.
Ballinclammer, Clonea Strand, Co. Waterford, 30 March 2008
(Mícheál Cowming).

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (8; 1)

Cork One, Redbarn Strand, Youghal, from 25 November 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 602) remained to 21 March, photographs *Birding World* 21: 58, *Wings* 49: 24.

Londonderry One, Mullagh, Lough Beg 11 to 19 December (R.D.Steele *et al.*), photograph *Birding World* 21: 493.

The elusive Londonderry bird was a first for Northern Ireland.

Mealy Redpoll *Carduelis flammea flammea* (88; 2)

Armagh Two, Newry Canal, Poyntzpass, 26 March (J.Devlin).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* (145; 7)

Clare Immature male, Kilbaha, 3 October (D.G.McAdams).

Cork Four: One, Dursey Island, 12 September (D.A.Scott); One, Cape Clear Island, 21 September (S.Wing, P.Wolstenholme); Immature male, Red Strand, near Galley Head, 26 September (D.G.McAdams); Juvenile, Cape Clear Island, 30 October (S.Wing).

Waterford Female/immature, Brownstown Head, 6 October (P.M.Walsh).

Wexford First-summer male, Great Saltee Island, 5 and 8 June, photographed (N.Keogh, N.T.Keogh, A.Walsh).

Numerically, geographically and temporally a typical series of records.

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea* (3; 1)

Cork First-winter male, Garinish, 7 to 11 October (K.Grace, A.A.K.Lancaster *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 413, 513, *British Birds* 101: 642, *Wings* 52: 28.

The earliest Irish record, albeit by less than a week. This is the third record for Cork, with the previous two being found within a week of each other in Firkeel, very close in location to the area frequented by the bird in 2008. The first for Ireland was a female found on Copeland Island in October 1963. Including this bird, there are only fourteen accepted records for the Western Palearctic – four each in Britain and Iceland, as well as Ireland, with one each from France and the Azores. In addition, there have been further birds photographed in the Azores which have not yet been formally ratified by the Portuguese Rarities Committee, including two birds in October 2008.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* (2; 1)

Cork First-year, Cape Clear Island, 12 to 18 October (P.Phillips *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 416, *British Birds* 101: 700, *Wings* 52: 29.

The second record for Cape Clear Island after the first in April 1967. The only other Irish record was of the long-staying and well watched bird in Duncrue Street Marsh, Belfast, Down, from December 1984 to May 1985. Most of the Nearctic Sparrow species that have occurred in the Western Palearctic show a bias towards spring records, with seventy-six per cent of the Irish and British records of this species to the end of 2007 occurring in that season (Slack 2009). Therefore, the timing of the Irish records, with two in autumn/winter and one in spring, is not in keeping with this seasonal distribution.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* (104; 4)

Clare One, Loop Head, 27 September (F.MacGabhann).

Cork Three: One, Dursey Island, 8 May (D.A.Scott); One, Mizen Head, 9 May (D.Ballard); One, Old Head of Kinsale, 21 September, photographed (H.Hussey *et al.*).

With only ten previous spring records, representing less than ten percent of the total, the two in spring this year is something of a mini influx. The record in Clare is only the second for the county.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* (35; 1)

Cork One, Old Head of Kinsale, 21 April (P.Wolstenholme).

Only the fifth spring occurrence of this species which normally shows a late autumn arrival, with most records arriving between the last week in September and the end of October, although there have been birds found as late as December.



Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*.
Redbarn Strand, Co. Cork, 11 February 2008 (Harry Hussey).



First-winter male Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*.
Garinish, Co. Cork, 11 October 2008 (Peter Phillips).



First-year White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*.
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 18 October 2008 (Dave Dillon).



First-year White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*.
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 12 October 2008 (Peter Phillips).



Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*.
Old Head of Kinsale, Co. Cork, 21 September 2008
(Graham Clarke, <http://grahamclarke.me>).

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia* (2; 2)

Cork First-year, Cape Clear Island, 24 to 30 August (S.Wing *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 319, 509, *British Birds* 101: 584, *Wings* 51: 34; First-year, Three Castles, Mizen Head, 26 to 28 August, photographed (D.Ballard *et al.*).

These, in addition to the record of Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (see below) are the first August records of Nearctic Warblers in Ireland, and indeed the Cape Clear Island individual matches the earliest date for any Nearctic Warbler in Britain or Ireland, also a Yellow Warbler, in Orkney in 1992. This is the second time that two have arrived almost simultaneously in Ireland as the previous two were found on consecutive days in October 1995 (in Waterford and Clare).

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* (1; 1)

Cork First-year, Cape Clear Island, 27 to 30 August (B.Haslam *et al.*), photographs *Birding World* 21: 319, 508, *British Birds* 101: 584, *Wings* 51: 32.

This, the second for Ireland and Cape Clear Island is typically early, in keeping with the early migration of the species in the New World. Although the previous Irish record occurred in September (in 1983), the August arrival is not without precedent as, in Britain, Scilly hosted this species from 29th August 1989 (Rogers *et al.* 1990). This individual shared its favourite muddy puddle with a Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria* for much of its stay.

Appendix 1: Category E records

Records of individuals considered to be probable or certain escapes from captivity.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandinus*

Cork One, Redbarn Strand, Youghal, from 2 December 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 609) remained until 23 January.

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IrishBirding.com

Irish Rare Breeding Birds Panel (IRBBP)

Birds of Ireland News Service (BINS)

BirdWatch Ireland (BWI)

Cape Clear Bird Observatory (CCBO)

Copeland Bird Observatory (CBO)

Northern Ireland Birdwatchers' Association (NIBA)

The Cork Bird Report (CBR)

Appendix 3: List of records not proven

For definition of records included here, see the 28th Irish Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 2:119).

2008 record not proven

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Adult, Lough Cullin, Mayo, 6 July.

Supplemental 2003 record not proven

Eastern Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe picata*

Duvillaun More, Mayo, 20 to 22 June.



First-year female Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*.
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 29 August 2008
(Paul & Andrea Kelly, www.irishbirdimages.com).



First-year male Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*.
Three Castles, Mizen Head, Co. Cork, 26 August 2008
(Seamus Enright).

Appendix 4: List of anonymous records not included

The following reports concern Appendix 2 rarities which were entered in the Provisional List of Rare Bird Sightings during 2008 but where the observers have to date remained unknown. Some or all of these reports may yet qualify for publication in a future IRBR, should the observers become known to the IRBC and be prepared to validate the claim.

Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

Two, Inishkea Islands, Mayo, 7 April.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

One, Blacksod, Broadhaven Bay, Mayo, 21 January.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Three, Ballyvaughan, Clare, 17 March.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Two, Doneraile, Cork, 4 January.

Six, Ballyclough, Dungarvan, Waterford, 1 February.

Two, near Lismore, Waterford, 1 February.

One, Rosscarbery, Cork, 10 February.



First-year Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*.
Cape Clear Island, Co. Cork, 28 August 2008 (Victor Caschera).

Eight, Ballinacarriga Lough, Cork, 13 February to 24 March.
Two, between Dunmanway and Bandon, Cork, 16 February.
One, Union Hall, Cork, 16 February.
One, Douglas, Cork 16 February.
Three, Rossleague, Cork, 5 to 6 April.
One, Cork City, Cork, 8 April and 7 May.
One, Fota, Cork, 7 May.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One, North Slob, Wexford, 12 May.
One, near Avoca, Wicklow, 17 May.
One, Ring Marsh, Wexford, 2 August.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Three, Muckish, Donegal, 2 May.
One, Forth Mountain, Wexford, 2 May.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

One, Bridges of Ross, Clare, 21 August.
Adult and juvenile, Kilcummin Head, Mayo, 3 September.
One, Bloody Foreland, Donegal, 2 October.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucooides kumlieni*

Adult, Lough Donnell, Clare, 11 March.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

One, Bantry Pier, Cork, 28 January.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

One, Tagoat, Wexford, from 20 October 2007 to late January.
One, Kilmacanogue, Wicklow, 7 to 8 January.
One, Moore Hall, Castlebar, Mayo, 25 May.
Juvenile, Bray, Wicklow, 30 July.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

One, Great Saltee Island, Wexford, 22 May.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

Adult, Arklow, Wicklow, 13 to 16 July.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

One, Cape Clear Island, Cork, 1 November.

Appendix 5: Corrigenda to previous reports

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*

The statistics in the 2005 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 375) should have read (12; 1), those in the 2006 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 397) should consequently have been (13; 2) and the 2007 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 586) should correctly have read (18; 1).

Fea's/Zino's Petrel *Pterodroma feae/madeira*

The totals for this species have been adjusted to correct the published total for 2007 occurrences (*Irish Birds* 8: 587) which was erroneously reported as eleven, despite only ten individuals being recorded. The record at sea off Donegal in 2000 (*Irish Birds* 7: 220) is excluded from the total.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

The Irish Rare Bird Report for 2005 (*Irish Birds* 8: 379) incorrectly states that the bird recorded in Cork that year was the first since 1994 when, in fact, four birds had been recorded in 1995 (*Irish Birds* 5: 458). Additionally, the total recorded previous to 2005 in the 2005 report should have read seven higher at (47; 1), and the total for 2006 should also be adjusted upwards by seven to (48; 3).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

The total for 2007 of fifteen as given in the 2007 Irish Rare Bird Report (*Irish Birds* 8: 591) is incorrect and should have read sixteen – the totals have been adjusted to reflect this correction.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

The total of eight reported for 2007 (*Irish Birds* 8: 595) was incorrect and should have been reported as seven.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

The totals in the 2005 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 384) and the 2006 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 403) have been overstated by one. The six from 2006, together with the two pre-2007 records should have given statistics of (42; 10) in the 2007 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 596).

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*

The 2007 report (*Irish Birds* 8: 596) reported an incorrect opening figure and therefore the statistics in that report should have read (39; 2).

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

The total of four quoted for this species in 2007 in *Irish Birds* 8: 602 was understated, five individuals being listed in the detail of the report. The totals have been amended to reflect this correction.

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Abbreviations used

IBR: Irish Bird Report – annual from 1953 to 1975.